

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-15 have been amended. No claims have been canceled. No new claims have been added. Claims 1-15 are pending.

Claims 1, 13-15, 6/1, 7-8, 10/1, 11/1, and 12/1 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamagushi (U.S. Patent No. 6,608,914) in view of Lu (U.S. Patent No. 5,550,928). Claims 4/1 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaguchi in view of Lu and Usui (U.S. Patent No. 5,210,797). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "a renewal storage means for newly storing data having high priority as new registration data from the optimization candidate data stored in said optimization candidate data storage means and the registration data stored in said registration data storage means, thereby renewing the registration data."

Claim 13 recites, *inter alia*, "renewal storage means for storing, as new registration data, the data having higher priorities of the optimization candidate data stored in said optimization candidate data storage means and the registration data stored in said registration storage means."

Claim 14 recites, *inter alia*, "renewing the registration data by selecting data having higher priorities from the optimization candidate data extracted and the registration data."

Claim 15 recites, *inter alia*, "a step of renewing registration data for collation by using the registration candidate data, wherein renewed registration data has higher priority than older registration data."

Yamaguchi discloses an apparatus for recognizing a person. Referring to Fig. 1, the apparatus 10 includes a feature extracting section 12 that extracts a personal feature as a set of vectors. In cooperation with a subspace calculation section 14, the set of vectors is used to construct a correlation matrix, the correlation matrix is used to construct a set of eigenvectors which forms the basis of a subspace. See column 5, lines 15-63. The apparatus 10 further includes a recognition section 16, which is coupled to a registered information holding section 18 and a registered information updating section 20.

Significantly, Yamaguchi discloses that for a given person, multiple subspaces may be stored. For example, subspaces corresponding to a person wearing glasses or having make-up applied, and the same person not wearing glasses or not having make-up applied may be stored in respective subspaces. See Fig. 6(a). Additionally, multiple subspaces over time may also be stored for a same person. Column 7, lines 54-57; Fig. 7. Even subspaces corresponding to other people may be associated together. Column 7, lines 58-63.

The Office Action states at page 3 that it would be obvious that “new data to be stored will have a higher priority than old registration data and this is the basic purpose of renewing old data.” It is respectfully asserted that the Office Action is in error. As noted above Yamaguchi discloses associating multiple subspaces for a particular identification. However, Yamaguchi does not disclose assigning different priorities to subspaces. Nor does Yamaguchi disclose that the new data (i.e., subspace) being stored will have a higher priority than the existing data. Yamaguchi merely discloses that the basis for performing an identification can be broadened to storing multiple subspaces to increase the convenience of using the identification system. See column 7, lines 51-53 (storing subspaces corresponding to both wearing and not

wearing glasses has the benefit that the subject being identified does not have to remove his glasses in order to use the system).

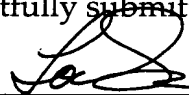
The Office Action cites to Lu and Usui. However, these references, like Yamaguchi, fail to disclose or suggest a priority system in which new data being added to the recognition database has a higher priority than existing data.

Accordingly, Yamaguchi, Lu, and Usui, whether taken individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest a “renewal storage means for newly storing data having high priority as new registration data from the optimization candidate data stored in said optimization candidate data storage means and the registration data stored in said registration data storage means, thereby renewing the registration data” (as recited by claim 1), “renewal storage means for storing, as new registration data, the data having higher priorities of the optimization candidate data stored in said optimization candidate data storage means and the registration data stored in said registration storage means” (as recited by claim 13), “renewing the registration data by selecting data having higher priorities from the optimization candidate data extracted and the registration data” (as recited by claim 14), or “a step of renewing registration data for collation by using the registration candidate data, wherein renewed registration data has higher priority than older registration data.” (as recited by claim 15).

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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